

2/2/07

House Natural Resources Committee  
State Capitol, Room 472  
Helena, MT 59620

RE: **Support House Bill 276**


Honorable Chairman and Members of the House Natural Resources Committee:

Stillwater Mining Company would like to go on record in support of House Bill 276 for the following reasons.

- When a bill fails to be enacted during a legislative session, the intent of the Legislature is established on the issue.
- Subsequent petitions to appointed boards on the same issue ignore the intent established by the Legislature.
- Petitions requesting appointed boards to establish by administrative rule items that the Legislature decided not to enact into law has serious legal ramifications.
- Our recent experience indicates readdressing issues before appointed boards that have previously been decided by the Legislature is counterproductive, divisive and wasteful.

Stillwater Mining Company supports House Bill 276 to provide the authority to deny petitions submitted to the board of environmental review that is substantially similar to legislation that failed to become law during a previous legislative session.

Sincerely,



Bruce Gilbert  
Director of Environmental & Governmental Affairs  
Stillwater Mining Company